

For many in attendance the highlight of the meeting was where agency executives made their presentations. Each executive delivered a PowerPoint presentation reporting their agency's previous quarterly utilization of MWBEs for expenditures in the areas of construction, construction consulting, commodities, and services. This was followed by a presentation of their goals. This unprecedented public airing of MWBE agency performance was followed by a general group discussion of ways to tackle some of the common problems encountered by agency executives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JACOB EAPEN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jacob Eapen on being the 2007 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Dr. Eapen, a resident of Fremont, California, is a pediatrician who has spent countless hours through the years in community service. When he hasn't been serving on various boards in or near Fremont, he has provided medical assistance statewide and overseas. He has spent more than 25 years giving back to a world too often in need.

His endless work has earned him local, state and national recognition. His most recent award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, is a prestigious honor given annually by the New York-based National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. The medal celebrates the immigrant experience and seeks to honor Americans from a wide variety of backgrounds for their positive and lasting imprint on society.

In previous years, the medal has been awarded to six U.S. presidents; courageous heroes who created positive social change such as Rosa Parks and Elie Wiesel and athletes, including Muhammad Ali. He is one of just six Indo-Americans and one of 12 Californians to receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor this year.

Dr. Eapen was born in Trivandrum, Kerala, in southern India where he grew up and received his medical degree. He earned his master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. He spent five years in Sub-Saharan Africa as a teacher and physician. He recalls his days in Africa where he would arrive at the medical clinic at 8 a.m. and find 150 people waiting in line for medical help, including some who had walked for hours. This experience fueled his passion to value life and to make a difference in the lives of others.

He is currently an elected member of the Washington Hospital board of directors and works as a practicing pediatrician in Newark with Alameda County Health Services. Dr. Eapen has previously served as a board member of the Association of California Healthcare Districts, medical director of a local health care clinic, Alameda County public health commissioner, U.N. high commissioner for refugees in the Philippines, and as an adviser to Alameda County's Every Child Counts Commission. In 2004, he received the Medical Board of California's First Physicians award.

I join Dr. Eapen's friends and admirers in congratulating him on receiving his most recent award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. It

is well deserved and a fitting symbol of his endless commitment and contributions to make a better life for others.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD PATTENAUDE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Pattenauode on the occasion of his being named chancellor of Maine's public university system, after 16 years of dedicated service to the University of Southern Maine. Richard's service to USM was extraordinary, and I join his many friends, coworkers and the students he taught in wishing him the best of luck in the next phase of his career.

Richard's service to public education began in 1972, when he took a job teaching political science at Colorado State University. His service to Maine's educational system began in 1991 when he became president of the University of Southern Maine.

Under his leadership, the University grew substantially in the classroom. Richard helped to add 12 new undergraduate, 5 masters and 2 doctorate programs to the course catalog, he rewrote the University's mission statement, and he led in the creation of the University's first and second strategic plans. Richard's influence extended beyond the classroom, however, and he made major contributions to improve USM's campus. He constructed over 75 million dollars worth of state of the art buildings and created more than 12 educational institutes—including the Multi-Cultural Student Center and the Center for Entrepreneurship—which responded to community needs.

Richard was truly successful in living up to his motto during his time with Southern Maine—he "worked hard, did well, had fun." His leadership as the University's president will be missed, but the school can rest assured knowing he will still be working diligently to make Maine's public university system better for future generations of students.

IN TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL DONALD J. WETEKAM

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-Chair of the Air Force Caucus to honor Lieutenant General Donald J. Wetekam, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, for his long and exceptionally distinguished military career.

General Wetekam entered the Air Force in June 1973 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. A career logistics officer, Don has commanded three maintenance squadrons, a logistics group and a logistics center. He has served staff tours at both major command and Air Staff levels, and served as Chairman, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Board of Directors.

General Wetekam was responsible for leadership, management and integration of Air

Force civil engineering, security forces, logistics readiness, supply, transportation, and aircraft and missile maintenance, as well as setting policy and preparing budget estimates that reflect enhancements to productivity, combat readiness and quality of life for Air Force people.

Most importantly for the state of Georgia, General Wetekam served as Commander, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB from 2002–2004. I watched as he created an excellent team atmosphere that led to use of LEAN and the introduction of unprecedented efficiencies at Robins. This model was the precursor to such efficiencies throughout the Air Force, culminating with Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO 21).

Finally, Madam Speaker, I should note for the record that, although he has received numerous military awards, Don's Blues Brothers imitation is rumored to be quite special. A mutual friend told me it's the best he's ever seen, particularly the dance routine in "the very small, black pants." But that same friend added that he'd seen the routine twice, which was "to be honest, one time too many." So I'd guess Don's second career won't stray too far from his current day job. No doubt he will maintain his interest in running and NASCAR. He and his wonderful wife Sherrie are community-oriented folks who are involved in various charities. I hope they settle in Middle Georgia where they will always be welcome. If they do, I'll run with Don, maybe catch some NASCAR but certainly skip the Blues Brothers.

RECOGNIZING MILDRED AND LESTER GUDGELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding constituents of Missouri's 6th Congressional District: Mildred and Lester Gudgell of Meadville, Missouri. Mildred and Lester will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 7, 2007.

Mildred and Lester were married on June 7, 1947 in Trenton, Missouri. They have raised five children: Nancy, Peggy, Benny, Paul and Ray, who is now deceased.

Mildred and Lester Gudgell have been outstanding citizens of Meadville and Northwest Missouri. They are dedicated and active members of their community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Mildred and Lester Gudgell. Their marriage of 60 years is inspirational, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 70 for receiving